

Unembarrassed

Addressing the Why, What, & How of Evangelism

Part 1: *MOTIVATION*

Part 2: *METHOD*

Part 3: *MESSAGE*

INTRODUCTION – What “God” Brings To Mind

1 Corinthians 9:19-23; John 3:16

When It Is Time To Speak

Acts 17:16-34

BEFORE YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH...

1. Determine not to argue, debate, or manipulate people toward your goal. If you have trouble with your “must win the argument” mentality, just think of evangelism as giving people an opportunity to say “no” to Jesus.

1 Peter 3:15-16

2. Refuse to be lured into purposeless arguments. Discern whether or not the people you are talking with are genuinely interested.

Matthew 7:6; 21:23-27; Luke 22:67-68; 23:8-9

3. Look for Signs of the Spirit at work.

Romans 3:11; John 6:44

VS. Luke 24:47; John 1:9; 12:32; 16:8-9; Titus 2:11

4. Ask what is functioning as their interim/provisional Old Testament. Do they have any “Christ-foreshadowing beliefs” (Don Richardson)?

Ecclesiastes 3:11

WHEN YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH...

5. Begin where THEY are at, not where YOU are at. It’s just basic other-centredness.

Acts 17:16 vs. 17:22-23

6. Use Scripture IF the Bible is already a respected source of truth to them. Otherwise, just tell the truth in their language, minus Scripture (see Acts 8:26-35 vs. 17:22-31). Guard against the conservative Christian tendency to treat the Bible like a magical talisman (based on a mishandling of verses like Isaiah 55:11).

7. Make sure your message is GOOD News. Let the Spirit convict.

John 3:16-17

8. Remember that the Gospel is ultimately about JESUS, not about us. It is unashamedly Christo-centric.

Mark 1:1; Acts 11:20; Romans 10:9; 1 Corinthians 12:3; 2 Corinthians 4:5

9. Explain what Jesus shows us about GOD. Looking at Jesus gives us a picture of the Judge of the universe, and he is infinitely loving.

John 12:44-47; 14:9; 1 John 4:7-19

10. Offer your own EXPERIENCE as evidence.

John 4:39-42; 9:24-25

THE GOSPEL = The Good News message that God became one of us to show us his love (Romans 5:8; Luke 15:11-32; John 3:16-17), to save us from sin (Matthew 9:1-8; John 1:29; 12:46-47; Ephesians 2:5; 1 Timothy 1:15), and to shut down religion (John 17:3; Romans 10:4; Ephesians 2:14-15; 1 Timothy 2:5).

AFTER YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH...

11. Expect a mixed response, loving and respecting everyone no matter what their reaction.

12. Continue to serve their practical needs, even when they reject your message.

13. Invite them to take the NEXT STEP in their spiritual journey toward Jesus.

CONCLUSION – Don’t Hold Your Breath

John 4:35-38; Romans 1:16-17

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP & REVIEW...

1. Explore and discuss the implications of this quote by Michael Green: *Whereas all other faiths represent men and women in search of God, this gospel of Christ portrays God in search of us. There is no other religion in the world that maintains anything remotely similar.*

2. Use your notes to review this week’s message. As you go, talk about what challenged, perplexed, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read an example of how Jesus evangelizes in **John 4:1-42**. As you read through the text, identify examples of the 13 principles listed in the sermon notes.

4. Read the Scripture references for point #2 in the sermon notes (“Refuse to be lured...”). a) How have you seen Christians miss this point? b) In what kinds of situations are you most tempted to go for the “win” rather than let it alone, when dropping the subject feels too much like dropping the ball?

5. Review points #4 - #6. What are some of the kinds of starting points that we should expect to let frame our conversations about Jesus today? In other words, what kinds of ideas function these days in our culture as people’s interim Old Testaments?

SO WHAT?...

6. Who are you eager to see come discover the truth of Jesus in their lives? What “NEXT STEP” should you be inviting them to take? Pray together regarding this.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, September 18 /25, 2005